

and delivered to Powell the same day as Bush's speech questioned that theory, arguing that history runs counter to it.

In his first major speech solely on the Iraqi threat, last October, Bush said, "Iraq possesses ballistic missiles with a likely range of hundreds of miles—far enough to strike Saudi Arabia, Israel, Turkey and other nations—in a region where more than 135,000 American civilians and service members live and work."

Inspectors have found that the Al Samoud-2 missiles can travel less than 200 miles—not far enough to hit the targets Bush named. Iraq has not accounted for 14 medium-range Scud missiles from the 1991 Persian Gulf War, but the administration has not presented any evidence that they still exist.

#### HONORING LEONARD ASH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BONNER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I stand here tonight to honor a fallen hero from America's greatest generation. Leonard Ash was a Marine whose life richly illustrated President Ronald Reagan's observation. President Reagan said, "Some people live their entire life and wonder if they ever made a difference in the world. Marines don't have that problem."

Mr. Ash served in the 4th Marine Division and fought at Iwo Jima. Seventy-five percent of the 4th Marine Division were killed or wounded at Iwo Jima. Mr. Ash belonged to that 75 percent. His leg was nearly blown completely off. But some good emerged from that very dark battle. Iwo Jima's airfields provided a refuge for American bomber crews. As one of the Army Corps pilots observed, "Whenever I land on this island, I thank God and the men who fought for it."

While recuperating, Mr. Ash met Lt. Genoveve Durocher, a Navy nurse who eventually became his wife for 55 years and the mother of his four children. While often overlooked by history, Mrs. Ash and her fellow nurses proudly served our country. They healed and comforted the wounded, and they bravely stood by the side of servicemen who at times were on the threshold of eternity.

On January 31 of this year, 78-year-old Sergeant Major Ash watched a television documentary about protests of America's possible action to liberate Iraq. He scrawled out some notes in response to the anti-war protest that he had just watched. The next day he and his wife, Genoveve, attended an anti-war rally in Port Orange, Florida, near their home and in my district. He brought his notes in case he had an opportunity to speak and many of the protesters against America's participation in liberating Iraq did not want him to speak.

At the rally, one of the protesters yelled that they would rather bomb President Bush than Iraq. At that point Mr. Ash, outraged, clutching his notes, stood up to defend our President

and our country. The following is what he intended to say:

"I am sickened at this propaganda against our country. Saddam is a murderous dictator. He has exhibited no remorse or hesitation in killing thousands of his own population with poisonous gases and other hideous means. His intent is to delay his defeat until he is able to use weapons of mass destruction against his enemies, the United States and his Arab neighbors."

"Those old enough to remember the few years prior to World War II should recall Mussolini and Hitler executed similar strategies against neighboring countries. Saddam must be stopped before he is able to deliver weapons of mass destruction into the hands of terrorists."

"Our country is blessed to have Colin Powell, DICK CHENEY, Donald Rumsfeld, and President Bush with their commitment to protect Americans and our allies."

"No one wants war. America has only entered a war because war has already commenced itself upon us. America enters war to protect and to honor the freedoms of this great Nation. That is the duty of the President. America is here today because she has not fallen short and because she is not fearful."

"The time to stand firm is now. My wife and I both dislike war. We have seen it firsthand as Marine sergeant and Navy nurse. We stand here today as witnesses that the freedoms we share today have not come without a grave price."

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ash never got a chance to finish his speech. After standing up and explaining that he and his wife were World War II veterans, he clutched his heart and he collapsed and he died of a heart attack. But because his proud and loving daughter Annette shared his notes with me, while he was unable to finish his speech, I have had the great honor and privilege of doing it for him.

Mr. Speaker, to my friend, Mr. Ash, who I never met but feel like I know, all I can say is, Job well done, America's good and faithful servant.

#### SAVE HEAD START

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a potential problem hidden deep in the President's budget. The budget says that the President is seeking to give States the opportunity to exercise more control over Head Start and that he would like to move responsibility of Head Start from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Education.

Now, this may not seem like a big deal to many listening tonight, but I believe that it will have a damaging effect on our most vulnerable children. They say this change is intended to

focus Head Start on school readiness and teacher training.

Well, for those who do not know what Head Start is, that may seem like an admirable goal. Head Start already does that and I agree that these are important goals and should be worked on continuously. Moving the program to the Department of Education will fundamentally alter the philosophy of the program.

Head Start is already a readiness program and more. It is a program that prepares the whole child for life. The program teaches families about proper nutrition. It also provides health and mental health screenings and other important services that many of these children would not have if Head Start did not exist. It is important to remember why we created Head Start to begin with under the War on Poverty. Poor children and the children of working-class families did not have the opportunity to have a preschool experience before going into kindergarten. These were children that often times had never had a physical examination. And we were able to discover that there were children with dyslexia, with learning disabilities, with hearing problems, with sight problems. We caught that in Head Start, and we were able to truly give these young people a chance to be successful.

Prior to Head Start, children were going into school with these deficiencies and getting put in special education classes because they thought they could not learn. President Johnson began Head Start and the War on Poverty because he saw a need to help families prepare their children for school and to break the cycle of poverty that many low-income families fall into.

Head Start has been a tremendous success. Study after study has shown that children who were enrolled in this program were more ready to learn when they entered kindergarten than their counterparts who were not enrolled. In addition, they were less likely to repeat a grade and more likely to graduate from high school; and these same students experienced greater long-term social and economic benefits than those students who were not enrolled in the program. Put simply, this is a program that works.

Instead of fundamentally altering this program, ruining its core philosophy that has guided it over the past 37 years, we should be nurturing it. I am here tonight to urge the President and my fellow Members of Congress to fully fund Head Start, resist the urge to provide funding in the form of block grants, and to keep the program within the Department of Health and Human Services. All of these would strip the program of its effectiveness.

Mr. Speaker, I have received many letters from parents and students who are asking that Congress not make any changes to Head Start. I would like to read you have a couple of lines from